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March 31, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: 14170-051003

## Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Presented for filing is a new continuation patent application of:

Applicant: HUGH R. SHARKEY, BRUNO STRUL, DAREN L. STEWART, JOHN  
E. ASHLEY AND RAMIRO L. REYES

Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HAVING DISTAL FACE WITH FIRST  
AND SECOND ELECTRODES

The prior application is assigned of record to Oratec Interventions, Inc., by virtue of  
an assignment submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office and recorded  
on February 17, 2000 at 010684/0825.

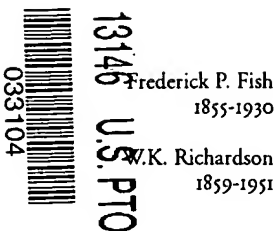
Enclosed are the following papers, including those required to receive a filing date  
under 37 CFR §1.53(b):

	<u>Pages</u>
Specification	22
Claims	5
Abstract	1
Declaration	2
Drawing(s)	12

### Enclosures:

- Preliminary amendment, 20 pages.
- Information disclosure statement, 1 page.  
PTO-1449, 26 pages.
- Postcard.

This application is a continuation (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC  
120) of U.S. application serial no. 09/895,609, filed June 29, 2001, which is a  
continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/412,878, filed October 5, 1999,  
now U.S. Patent No. 6,379,350. The present application is a continuation-in-part of  
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/242,777, filed September 13, 2002, which is a  
divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/340,065, filed June 25, 1999, now



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U.S. Patent No. 6,461,357. The disclosure of the prior applications are considered part of (and are incorporated by reference in) the disclosure of this application.

Basic filing fee	\$770
Total claims in excess of 20 times \$18	\$612
Independent claims in excess of 3 times \$86	\$172
Fee for multiple dependent claims	\$0
Total filing fee:	\$1554

A check for the filing fee is enclosed. Please apply any other required fees or any credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the attorney docket number shown above.

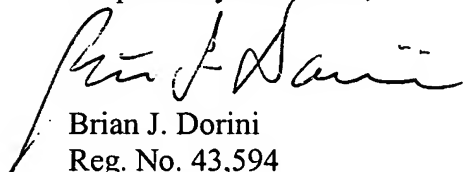
If this application is found to be incomplete, or if a telephone conference would otherwise be helpful, please call the undersigned at (202) 783-5070.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this application by returning the enclosed postcard.

Please direct all correspondence to the following:

Joel R. Petrow, Esq.  
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1450 Brooks Road  
Memphis TN 38116

Respectfully submitted,



Brian J. Dorini  
Reg. No. 43,594

Enclosures

BXD/egf

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